

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400
San Francisco, CA 94102

Contact: Victoria B. Henley
Director-Chief Counsel
(415) 557-1200

FOR RELEASE
November 21, 2006

HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE ROBERT G. SPITZER

On July 31, 2006, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Robert G. Spitzer, a judge of the Riverside County Superior Court. The hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Fourth District Court of Appeal at 3389 Twelfth Street in Riverside, California. The hearing will continue through Friday, February 2, 2007, or until completed, and will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern Commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Justice Fred K. Morrison, Court of Appeal, Third District; Judge Mark H. Tansil, Superior Court of Sonoma County; and Judge Mary Jo Levinger, Superior Court of Santa Clara County.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Andrew Blum has been designated as examiner. Judge Spitzer is represented by attorneys Reginald A. Vitek of Seltzer Caplan McMahon & Vitek, and Heather L. Rosing of Klinedinst PC, in San Diego, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the Commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the Commission. If the Commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the Commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Marshall B. Grossman, Esq. of Los Angeles, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web page at www.cjp.ca.gov.